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MEETING	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
DATE	MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER 2015 4.00 PM
VENUE	CONFERENCE ROOM 4 - CIVIC CENTRE, SOUTHAMPTON
ENQUIRIES	SUE LAWRENCE 023 8083 3569 Email: susan.lawrence@southampton.gov.uk
MEMBERS	SEE ATTACHED LIST

A G E N D A

1. **WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CHANGES OF MEMBERSHIP**

To receive any apologies and changes to membership.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

To elect a Vice-Chair for the remainder of the municipal year 2015/16.

3. **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

4. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

5. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING**

(Pages 1 - 4)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2015, attached.

6. **ANNUAL REPORT**

(Pages 5 - 12)

Report of the Chair of SACRE regarding activities during the period August 2014-August 2015, attached.

7. **SACRE ACTION PLAN**

(Pages 13 - 14)

To consider the development of an Action Plan for SACRE activity.

PLEASE NOTE - SACRE members are requested to consider the attached Example Action Plan before the meeting to enable a full and informed discussion. Members might also like to consider the information on the NASACRE website:

http://www.nasacre.org.uk/file/SACRE_and_development_planning.pdf

8. VISITS TO SCHOOLS

Standing agenda item – verbal update on schools visits undertaken to monitor practice regarding RE and collective worship.

9. AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

Verbal update on the review of the Agreed Syllabus.

10. FEEDBACK ON EVENTS

To receive feedback and updates from members of the SACRE on any events or training attended including the South England Education Faith Forum Conference on 3rd September.

(Please advise the Chair on arrival if you have any feedback for this item.)

11. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

To agree dates for future meetings.

Friday, 4 September 2015

HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MEMBERSHIP

GROUP A

Christian Denominations*

(Religions and other bodies listed in the SACRE Constitution)*

The Roman Catholic Church	David Walford
The Baptists	VACANCY
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	VACANCY
The Greek Orthodox Church	VACANCY
The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches	Margaret Blake
The Methodist Church	VACANCY
The United Reformed Church	Susanne Dawson
The Assemblies of God	Neil Maddock
The Salvation Army	VACANCY

Other Religions

Religions other than Christianity (as listed in the SACRE Constitution) – Baha'i, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism = 6

Baha'i	Elizabeth Jenkerson
Buddhist	David Vane
Hindu	Priti Dave
Jewish	VACANCY
Muslim	Anas Al-Korj
Sikh	Harmeet Singh Brar

GROUP B

(Four representatives of the Church of England)

The Church of England

Rev Duncan Jennings
Allan King

From diocesan education team:

Rev Jeff Williams OR Joyce Johnson
Richard Wharton

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(Six teachers representing associations recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation)

National Union of Teachers (NUT)	Jackie Meering
The National Association of Schoolmasters/ Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)	David Parrott
Voice	Dr R Palmer
The Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)	Julian Waterfield
Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)	VACANCY
National Association of Headteachers (NAHT)	VACANCY

GROUP D

(4+substitute) - Four representatives of Southampton City Council, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the City Council)

Councillor Edward Daunt

Councillor Satvir Kaur

Councillor Brian Parnell

Councillor Warwick Payne

GROUP D SUBSTITUTE

Mrs. K. Martin

OTHERS (Non-voting)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

South Hampshire Humanists	Liz Mizon
Primary School RE Teacher	Anna Adams
Southampton City Mission	Chris Davis

ASC Group

Claire Belli (Springwell Special School)

Suzanne Underwood (Bitterne Park Secondary School)

Susanna Woodman (Sholing Infants School)

OBSERVER

Natasha Bye-Brooks (University of Winchester)

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 6 JULY 2015

Present:

Group A – Christian Denominations

Suzanne Dawson

Group A - Other Religions

Anas al-Korj, Harmeet Singh Brar, Elizabeth Jenkerson, David Vane

Group B – Church of England

Rev Duncan Jennings, Allan King

Group C - Teachers

Jackie Meering, David Parrott

Group D - Members of the Council

Councillor Brian Parnell, Kate Martin

Co-opted Members

Chris Davis

Also in attendance:

Alison Philpott – Professional Advisor

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

RESOLVED that Jackie Meering be appointed as Chair for the remainder of the municipal year.

JACKIE MEERING IN THE CHAIR

The SACRE agreed not to elect a Vice-Chair at this meeting.

2. **WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CHANGES OF MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies were received from:

Group A - Margaret Blake, Priti Dave

Group B - Richard Wharton

Group C - Julian Waterfield

Group D - Councillor Warwick Payne

The SACRE noted that Councillor Payne had been appointed to Group D at the first Council meeting of the municipal year and that Councillor Paffey was no longer a member of the Council (and thus the SACRE) following the May 2015 elections.

3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **FEEDBACK ON EVENTS**

Elizabeth Jenkerson (EJ) provided feedback on the NASACRE Annual Conference / AGM at which the keynote speaker was Charles Clarke former Secretary of State for Education.

SACRE members were reminded of the link to the report, 'A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools', by Charles Clarke and Linda Woodhead released recently.

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/news/a-new-settlement-religion-and-belief-in-schools/>

It was reported that recommendations in the report regarding RE in schools included abolishing collective worship and introducing a national syllabus with a similar legal status to other subjects in the National Curriculum. Regarding the latter, it was reported that an advisory group consisting of AREIAC, the RE Council and other interested parties had been formed to consider what should go into a national syllabus from which, it was also recommended, the right of parents to withdraw their children from the Religious Education part of the curriculum should be abolished. There were also a number of recommendations regarding faith schools. It was reiterated that the report was part of a national debate of RE in schools and that the recommendations might not therefore ever be implemented.

(Link to the relevant NASACRE webpage for more information on the NASACRE Conference:

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2015>)

5. **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT**

The SACRE considered the draft Annual Report for August 2014-July 2015.

The Chair and members welcomed the draft report as the first to have been produced for some time and indicative of the renewed activity of the SACRE.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the draft Annual Report for August 2014-July 2015 be approved subject to amendments to section 7 to reflect activities undertaken in connection with the school monitoring visits, collective worship and teaching of RE; and
- (ii) that under the terms of the SACRE Constitution, the amended report be made available for public inspection and circulated to NASACRE and the relevant government department.

6. **SCHOOLS AUDIT TOOLS**

Alison Philpott gave a verbal update on the findings from the returns of the Audit Tools of RE circulated to a number of City schools earlier in the year.

Members were reminded that the Audit had been undertaken to provide the SACRE with the latest picture of RE in schools and thus inform future support work of the SACRE.

A table setting out the results was provided which clearly identified 'resources' together with 'staff development' as priority areas.

Members discussed the issue of resources management including possible funding sources for SACRE activities / projects and focussed on NASACRE's annual Westhill award scheme.

It was agreed that Alison submit an application for funding to the Westhill award scheme for an 'Increasing Respect of Difference' film / roadshow project to tour Southampton schools with a speaker from a local faith based group or RE specialist teacher under the management of SACRE. It was agreed that the details of the project be worked up by AP then circulated to SACRE members for comment before submission of the final bid.

It was also agreed that SACRE members submit information to the SACRE clerk for inclusion into a resource directory for schools.

7. **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP PILOT VISITS - DRAFT PROTOCOL**

The SACRE considered the draft Protocol for SACRE monitoring visits to schools and feedback was provided regarding the pilot visits to schools as regards collective worship.

It was reported that a second school visit had been made – in this instance to a primary school.

Findings had included that the ethos and approach of the school had been very strong despite there being no daily act of collective worship. The UNICEF rights respecting principles ran through the school and cross-curriculum. The school had its own RE resources and additionally used those available on-line and provided support to non RE staff.

The previous secondary school visited was also felt to have a similarly strong approach with all those taking the GCSE taking the long course version.

The schools were felt to have benefited from the opportunity to respond to requests for advice and discuss relevant issues. It was stressed that the pilot was not expected to throw up bad practice as participating schools were unlikely to have put themselves forward if this were the case.

Further updates on monitoring visits would be provided to the SACRE at future meetings.

RESOLVED that the Draft Protocol for SACRE monitoring visits be approved.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Ofsted Reports

It was reported that of the 14 completed inspections in the City, 85% were in the 'Good' or 'Outstanding' categories.

Agreed Syllabus

Alison reported that eight attendees had confirmed for the open meeting to be held on 9th July for schools to contribute to the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Sufficient SACRE members had already volunteered to assist at the event but the invitation remained open.

Forthcoming Events

The SACRE were informed of the South East England Faith Forum (SEEFF) AGM Conference Event on The Role of Faith in British Schools/Education. Alison Philpott agreed that the SACRE budget would be able to support attendance of up to four members. Details and the booking form to be circulated by the Clerk.

The SACRE discussed the issue of the increasing incidents of race crime in the City as raised by Harmeet Singh-Brar who reported that during May-June this year 25 incidents had been reported to the Sikh Council – it was acknowledged that such incidents were often not reported to the Police and not taken up by the local press. Following their expressions of concern members were asked to submit suggestions on how SACRE could support schools to combat this and other issues discussed, to AP by 9th July in order that these could possibly be incorporated into the funding bid to the Westhill award scheme.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on 14th September 2015 at 4pm in the Civic Centre.

Annual report August 2014-August 2015



1. Chairs introduction and context

The Southampton SACRE is proud to have re-established itself to become a proactive body for the promotion and monitoring of high quality RE and Collective Worship in Schools across Southampton. It is a supportive body for whom the year has been busy in determining a way forward to be fully engaged with schools and actively promoting advice to the Local Authority and schools across Southampton. It has become a member of the South Central hub and is working in partnership with other SACREs and Local Authorities to strengthen its work.

2. Advice to Local Authority

The SACRE required a budget to be able to re-establish the engagement which it needed to be able to carry out its statutory work. A two year budget is now secured (2015-2017), the continuation of the clerking arrangements, plus appropriate LA officer time for professional advice is in place.

The need to be able to gain information regarding standards is now much easier with a named LA officer with responsibility as professional support to SACRE.

Advice has been regarding budget, officer time, the need to establish communication with schools with regard to RE and Collective Worship, the need to develop an effective system for monitoring.

3. Advice to schools

All schools have been in receipt of an audit compiled by SACRE members and the LA officer as it was identified that advice to schools needed to be based upon current knowledge as well as self-evaluation from the schools themselves. This included information about what the SACRE is and its statutory duties as well as reinforcing statutory requirements for schools.

The Audit occurred between January and April, 30% of schools including primary, infant, junior, special and secondary schools responded sending completion of the full audit. The returns enabled the SACRE to begin to prioritise areas for advice and support for the coming year. The two main areas schools identify as a priority for improvement are staff development in RE (in particular with regard to locally agreed syllabus), and resources for RE and their management. Results of the audit have been shared with schools, schools have been invited to engage with the SACRE

through SACRE meetings, ASC meeting, attending training signposted to them so far.

Since the audit some Academies have been advised to look into their funding agreements to determine the duty to deliver the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Links to the Locally Agreed Syllabus have been provided and some local opportunities for visits and visitors to schools have been discussed or distributed to schools. Schools are aware that the syllabus review has begun (July 2015) to be completed for September 2016, three schools have provided staff to actively support the revision of the Locally Agreed Syllabus with release being funded by the SACRE.

Some information has already been circulated to schools this term regarding local opportunities for training for those teaching RE both at Primary and Secondary. The Secondary Network meeting has been visited for RE and issues regarding some non-specialists teaching RE in all sectors have been taken on board. The SACRE is discussing this common issue with other SACREs and the South Central Hub is considering some joint planned work to address this, advice to the LA will follow after discussions as to the best value offer for improving the quality of teaching in schools by non-specialists.

4. GCSE RE standards as set out in the table below:

The dip seen in %C+ in 2014 is linked to the significant increase in numbers taking the subject in 2014, from 26% of students in 2013, to 40.1% in 2014.

	GCSE full course (%)						GCSE short course (%)					
	National			Southampton			National			Southampton		
	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+
2011	28.9	71.6	98.3	20.4	63.1	98.9						
2012	29.1	72.1	98.4	36.2	72.1	99.3						
2013	28.8	72.1	98.4	30.7	71.7	98.5					43.0	86.9
2014	27.9	70.0	97.9	23.7	62.8	96.5				10.8	46.4	89.6

	GCSE Full course		GCSE short course	
	National	Southampton	National	Southampton
2011	181,094 (31.6%)	534 (26.1%)		
2012	195,722 (34.5%)	420 (21.7%)		
2013	211,870 (36.7%)	539 (26%)		428 (20%)
2014	241442 (42.7%)	789 (40.1%)		386 (20%)

The table above shows the increase in entries for GCSE RE in Southampton Schools for 2014. The % obtaining C+ is variable by cohort.

The SACRE has not had any withdrawal or complaints referred to them during this year.

5. Locally Agreed Syllabus

An ASC was convened at the April SACRE meeting to review the Locally Agreed Syllabus during the period July 2015-September 2016. It was agreed that we will work again in partnership with Hampshire SACRE and other SACRES using the current syllabus to undertake this responsibility. LA officer time plus a teacher representative from Primary, Secondary and Special sectors in Southampton has been agreed to be a part of the writing group for the new syllabus. This group began its work on 9th July with an open meeting for all schools in Southampton to visit and contribute its thoughts and ideas about the locally agreed syllabus, 14 schools attended. The collective group first review meeting took place on 17th July and will now continue into the writing phase over the next year.

6. Collective Worship including determinations or complaints

There have been no complaints or applications for determination made to the SACRE in Southampton over the period of this report.

Collective worship was an area covered in the audit to enable to SACRE to feel more informed and begin a pilot of the developing protocol for Collective Monitoring in Schools. Head teacher conferences have had the opportunity to be a part of the development of the protocol and one secondary school and one primary school have been involved in piloting the visits for Collective Worship monitoring in July 2015.

The cycle for monitoring will commence in September, following revisions from the pilot project with a letter to Head teachers reminding them of the criteria set out in the protocol and inviting any head teachers to request a monitoring visit (one of the criteria), further criteria include drop in GCSE/A level results, new Head teacher/ RE leader. Monitoring will include observation and teaching of RE and Collective

Worship, Pupil voice opportunities and staff voice built into the monitoring. This will allow the SACRE to refer any concerns they have to the LA for action.

7. Summary

The SACRE has re-established to work to raise the profile of RE and Collective Worship in Southampton schools and now has a clearer picture of local needs to focus/advise the LA on during the coming twelve months together with the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

The profile of RE and Collective Worship has been raised this year and sets the SACRE in a positive place to continue this renewed ability to encourage all schools to place importance upon RE and Collective Worship.

8. Membership of the SACRE

(Attached)

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
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National Association of Headteachers

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Primary School RE Teacher	Anna Adams
Representative of Teachers' Subject Network (RE)	Sian Roberts
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Action plan initial thoughts pre-meeting

Name

What do you think the three/four priorities should be for the SACRE from now to March 2017?

1-

2-

3-

What would these priorities look like by March 2017 (what are we aiming for?)

What will we need to do to achieve this?

Timeframe	Priority 1 Agreed Syllabus Review	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4 (may not have 4)
Now- November meeting 15				
December – March 16				
April – August 16				
Sept –Dec 16				
Jan – March 17				